



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: October 17, 2013
District: 4 - Oakland
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS & PARTNERS PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL BART STRIKE

OAKLAND—The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and its transportation and business partners are preparing for the BART strike on Friday. For the latest information, visit alert.511.org. Drivers should expect extended metering light hours on bridges and on-ramps, longer travel times and heavy traffic.

Caltrans is taking the following steps to mitigate the expected increase in traffic.

- **High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Carpool Lanes:** Caltrans will extend the hours of selected High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes, commonly known as “Diamond Lanes” or “Carpool Lanes.” The hours will run from 5:00 am to 7:00 pm weekdays. The following lanes will be affected:
 - Interstate 80, between the Carquinez Bridge and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge
 - Interstate 680, from I-580 to the Benicia-Martinez Bridge
 - Interstate 880, from San Jose to the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge
 - State Route 92, between Hayward and the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge
 - State Route 84, between Fremont and the Dumbarton Bridge
 - Toll Plazas: SFOBB, Carquinez, Benicia-Martinez, San Mateo-Hayward, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael, and Antioch Bridges
- **I-80/West Grand Avenue On Ramp Restriction:** The West Grand Avenue on ramp from Maritime Street in Oakland to Interstate 80 just east of the Bay Bridge toll plaza will be restricted only to public transit, HOV and commercial vehicles on weekdays from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Vehicles with three or more occupants, buses, motorcycles and commercial trucks will be allowed during these times.





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- **I-880/80 HOV Lane Extension:** The High-Occupancy Vehicle Lane from northbound Interstate 880 to westbound Interstate 80 will be extended roughly one-half mile to the south, in order to better accommodate the high-occupancy vehicles headed for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.
- **Additional Traffic Monitoring and Incident Response:** Caltrans will deploy field personnel to conduct real-time monitoring of traffic conditions along BART corridors and identify potential problems and provide updated reports. Caltrans personnel will work to clear any traffic incidents and accidents as quickly as possible.
- **Changeable Message Signs:** Caltrans will activate changeable message signs with the latest traffic conditions, travel and carpool information. For additional BART strike information visit: <http://alert.511.org/>.
- **Extra Caltrans Tow Service:** Caltrans will be adding additional drivers during peak periods to enhance services on the following bridges: San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, San Mateo-Hayward Bridge, Dumbarton Bridge and Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. The Freeway Service Patrol will expand tow service hours by one hour earlier and one hour later than usual in affected BART corridors. Lane closures for maintenance and construction are being deferred to off-peak hours, overnight or to a later date whenever possible.
- **Extra Caltrans' Bay Bridge Bicycle Shuttle:** Caltrans will deploy a second bicycle trailer during the commute periods to provide additional bicycle shuttle service between Oakland and the San Francisco Transbay Terminal.

Commuters are encouraged to take advantage of carpooling and other public transit options. The Bay Area's Park and Ride lots are accessible to freeways and provide good meeting places to form carpools. Several public transit agencies also stop at many Park & Ride lots. All Caltrans lots in the Bay Area are listed on <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/highwayops/parkandride> with locations, total number of parking spaces in each lot, amenities, linked maps, lot diagrams and transit links and lot guidelines. In addition, BART is keeping its parking lots open for carpoolers.

The consequences of a BART strike on Bay Area traffic would be significant as approximately 400,000 riders would put extra pressure on the freeway system and other public transit systems. Therefore, 511.org and Caltrans recommend that commuters:

- Telecommute or avoid traveling altogether
- Form a carpool or try casual carpooling





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- Take advantage of free parking at any BART station or Park & Ride lot to meet your carpool
- Adjust work hours (leave early or stay late)
- Ride a bike
- Allow extra time for trips

The seven Bay Area toll bridges will have extra toll collectors to manage the increase in traffic demand. At the Bay Bridge toll plaza, all cash toll booths will be fully staffed as early as 4:00 a.m. Electronic toll payment with FasTrak is strongly encouraged. The web pages for both 511.org and BART have links for FasTrak sign ups. All metering lights will be adjusted on weekdays and weekends to adjust to any increased traffic flow.

Current information about the BART strike is also available on San Francisco Bay Area 511 traveler information service website www.rideshare.511.org, <http://alert.511.org/> or by dialing 511 from any Bay Area telephone area codes. The Bay Area's 511 traveler information system-available 24/7 at www.511.org or on the phone by dialing 511-provides a comprehensive, one-stop resource for evaluating travel alternatives. A special BART strike webpage at alert.511.org includes updates on BART's service status, alternative transit and ridesharing options, and real-time traffic and transit information.

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